

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A rotary seal assembly comprising:

a first member having a sealing face;  
a second member having a sealing face with a number of pumping grooves therein, at least a first set of pumping grooves starting proximate a center portion of the sealing face of the second member and extending outward towards the outer diameter of the second member and at least a second set of pumping grooves starting proximate the center portion of the sealing face of the second member and extending inward towards the inner diameter of the second member to direct fluid fed to the center portion of the sealing face simultaneously both inwardly and outwardly from the center portion of the sealing face of the second member to provide a uniform fluid film thickness between the sealing faces of the first and second members when one sealing face cones due to thermal and/or pressure effects; [[and]]

a holder mounted to one of said first or second members and movable therewith, and a spring which biases the first and second members apart, a gap between the holder and the said first or second member responsive to system pressure which overcomes the spring at a predetermined level; and

a feeding groove for providing fluid to the center portion of the sealing face of the second member; said feeding groove being discontinuous forming a number of feeding groove sections.

2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously presented) The rotary seal assembly of claim 1 in which the feeding groove is in the first member.
4. (Previously presented) The rotary seal assembly of claim 1 in which the feeding groove is in the second member and positioned at the center portion of the sealing face thereof.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Previously presented) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 1 in which each feeding groove section has an orifice therein.
7. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 6 in which the orifices are angled.
- 8-10. (Cancelled)
11. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 1 in which the first member is a stator ring.
12. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 11 in which the second member is a rotor ring.

13. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 1 in which the first member is a rotor ring.

14. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 13 in which the second member is a stator ring.

15. (Previously presented) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 1 in which the first set of pumping grooves each have a terminal end located inward of an outer portion of the sealing face of the second member.

16. (Previously presented) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 1 in which the second set of pumping grooves each have a terminal end located inward of an inner portion of the sealing face of the second member.

17. (Previously presented) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 1 in which the first set of pumping grooves and the second set of pumping grooves start adjacent each other at the center portion of the sealing face of the second member.

18. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 1 in which the starting position of the first set of pumping grooves are offset from the starting position of the second set of pumping grooves.

19. (Previously presented) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 1 in which the first set of pumping grooves curve outwardly from the center portion of the sealing face of the second member.
20. (Previously presented) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 1 in which the second set of pumping grooves curve inwardly from the center portion of the sealing face of the second member.
21. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 1 in which all the pumping grooves have a width greatly exceeding their depth.
22. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 1 in which each pumping groove has an inside edge and an outside edge, both edges curving inwardly.
23. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 1 in which each set of pumping grooves includes the same number of pumping grooves.
24. (Previously presented) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 1 in which the feeding groove has a rounded bottom.
25. (Previously presented) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 1 in which the feeding groove has a square bottom.

26-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) The rotary face seal assembly of claim [[26]] 1 in which the holder includes a shaft fixed thereto, the spring disposed about the shaft and abutting a non-movable member.

29. (Previously presented) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 1 further including a holder for one of said members configured to allow said member to cone negatively when the other member cones positively and allows said member to cone positively when the other member cones negatively.

30. (Currently amended) A rotary seal assembly comprising:

a first member having a sealing face with feeding orifices therein which are positioned in a discontinuous feeding groove in the first member forming a number of feeding groove sections; [[and]]

a second member having a sealing face with a number of pumping grooves therein, at least a first set of pumping grooves starting proximate a center portion of the sealing face of the second member and extending outward towards the outer diameter of the second member and at least a second set of pumping grooves starting proximate the center portion of the sealing face of the second member and extending inward towards the inner diameter of the second member to direct fluid fed to the center portion of the sealing face of the second member by the feeding orifices of the first member simultaneously both inwardly and outwardly from the center portion of the sealing face of the second member to provide a

uniform fluid film thickness between the sealing faces of the first and second members when one sealing face cones due to thermal and/or pressure effects [(. . .)]; and

a holder mounted to whichever member is the stator and movable therewith, and a spring which biases the first and second members apart, a gap between the holder and the stator member responsive to system pressure which overcomes the spring at a predetermined level.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 30 in which each feeding groove section has an orifice extending through the thickness of the first member.

33. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 32 in which the orifices are angled.

34-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 30 in which the first member is a stator ring.

38. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 30 in which the second member is a rotor ring.

39. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 30 in which the first member is a rotor ring.

40. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 39 in which the second member is a stator ring.

41. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 30 in which the first set of pumping grooves each have a terminal end located inward of an outer portion of the sealing face of the second member.

42. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 30 in which the second set of pumping grooves each have a terminal end located inward of an inner portion of the sealing face of the second member.

43. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 30 in which the first set of pumping grooves and the second set of pumping grooves start adjacent each other at the center portion of the sealing face of the second member.

44. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 30 in which the starting position of the first set of pumping grooves are offset from the starting position of the second set of pumping grooves.

45. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 30 in which the first set of pumping grooves curve outwardly from the center portion of the sealing face of the second member.

46. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 30 in which the second set of pumping grooves curve inwardly from the center portion of the sealing face.

47. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 30 in which all the pumping grooves have a width greatly exceeding their depth.

48. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 30 in which each pumping groove has an inside edge and an outside edge, both edges curving inwardly.

49. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 30 in which each set of pumping grooves includes the same number of pumping grooves.

50. (Previously presented) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 30 in which the feeding groove sections of the first member have rounded bottoms.

51. (Previously presented) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 30 in which the feeding groove sections of the first member have square bottoms.

52-53. (Cancelled)

54. (Currently amended) The rotary face seal assembly of claim [[52]] 30 in which the holder includes a shaft fixed thereto, the spring disposed about the shaft and abutting a non-movable member.

55. (Previously presented) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 30 further including a holder for one of said first or second members configured to allow that member to cone negatively when the other member cones positively and allows that member to cone positively when the other member cones negatively.

56. (Currently amended) A rotary face seal assembly comprising:

a stator having a sealing face;

a rotor having a sealing face in close proximity to the sealing face of the stator;

a holder for the stator having a back seat which allows the stator to cone negatively when the rotor cones positively and vice versa;

a spring which biases the stator and the rotor apart;

a gap between the holder and the stator responsive to system pressure which overcomes the spring at a predetermined level;

the sealing face of the rotor or the stator partitioned into at least first and second sections, the first section having pumping grooves which extend inwardly towards the inner diameter of the sealing face of the rotor or the stator, the second section having pumping grooves which extend outwardly towards the outer diameter of the sealing face of the rotor or the stator; and

the sealing face of the rotor or the stator having feeding orifices therethrough to direct

fluid to the inwardly directed pumping grooves and the outwardly directed pumping grooves simultaneously thereby causing the stator to cone negatively when the rotor cones positively and vice versa, the feeding orifices disposed in a discontinuous feeding groove forming a number of feeding groove sections.

57. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 56 in which the outwardly extending pumping grooves start proximate a center portion of the sealing face of the rotor or the stator and extend outward, and the inwardly extending pumping grooves start proximate the center portion of the sealing face of the rotor or the stator and extend inward to direct fluid fed to the center portion of the sealing face of the rotor by the orifices simultaneously both inwardly and outwardly from the center portion of the sealing face of the rotor.

58-59. (Cancelled)

60. (Previously presented) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 56 in which each feeding groove section has an orifice therein.

61. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 60 in which the orifices are angled.

62-63. (Cancelled)

64. (Previously presented) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 56 in which the orifices are angled.

65. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 56 in which the stator sealing face has the pumping grooves.

66. (Previously presented) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 56 in which the sealing face of the rotor has the pumping grooves.

67. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 56 in which the rotor sealing face has the orifices.

68. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 56 in which the stator sealing face has the orifices.

69. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 56 in which the outwardly directed pumping grooves each have a terminal end located inward of an outer portion of the sealing face.

70. (Previously presented) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 56 in which the inwardly directed pumping grooves each have a terminal end located inward of an inner portion of the sealing face.

71. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 56 in which all the pumping grooves start adjacent each other at the center portion of the sealing face.

72. (Previously presented) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 56 in which the starting position of the pumping grooves are offset.

73. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 56 in which all the pumping grooves have a width greatly exceeding their depth.

74. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 56 in which each pumping groove has an inside edge and an outside edge, both edges curving inwardly.

75. (Original) The rotary face seal assembly of claim 56 in which each section includes the same number of pumping grooves.

76. (Cancelled)

77. (Cancelled)

78. (Currently amended) The rotary face seal assembly of claim [[76]] 56 in which the holder includes a shaft fixed thereto, the spring disposed about the shaft and abutting a non-movable member.